

From: Kip Gebhardt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 5:08pm
Subject: Opinion on Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to voice my opinion (under the Tunney Act) on the Microsoft Antitrust Settlement.

The proposed settlement is not sufficient in punishing Microsoft for its previous anti-competitive practices nor does it do anything to ensure that Microsoft will not remain an illegal monopoly or more likely, extend its control into other areas of technology.

As a programmer since the age of 10 (22years) I have had experience in almost all areas of computing and software. I have watched Microsoft's rise to "power" and the simultaneous strangle hold place on their competitors. As late-comers to the internet arena Microsoft pulled out all the stops (i.e. fair competition) by preventing other browsers (Netscape) from being afforded desktop placement in their Operating System. Simultaneously they sought to redesign their Operating System to force users to use their browser. On all fronts they engaged in unfair and illegal anti-competitive practices.

As a result we are left with one browser that has 80% market share. Is it the best browser. NO! It is buggy, doesn't conform to standards, and generally is a major headache for web developers. Yet I am forced to support it because Microsoft has squeezed out all other competitors illegally.

Please rethink the settlement so that it actually has an impact on Microsoft and works to improve outlook for software, the internet and what may come in the future of information technology.

Thank you,

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